

The Atlanta Daily Constitution

SUNDAY MORNING, FEB. 18, 1877.

TAF'S ARMY OF MARSHALS.

Father Tait took just two months to answer the senate's resolution of December 12, directing him to communicate information in regard to the employment of deputy marshals throughout the nation. His report shows that he employed 11,615 "regularly enlisted" to buttress the veterans—a force equivalent to half the strength of the regular army. By a stroke of the pen he increased for electioneering purposes a army fifty men and \$3,000 of these armed constables were employed in the southern states—principally, of course, in the states that the administration had decided to carry. Events proved that their calculations were not correct, but their errors of judgment have since been corrected by returning boards, both state and national.

The number of marshals appointed in Alabama was 150, in 125 voting precincts; in Arkansas, Eastern district, 785, in 38 precincts; Western district, 214 in 16 counties; in California, 244, in 36 precincts; in Delaware, 135, in 50 precincts; in Florida, North district, 75, in 19 counties; in Georgia, Northern district, 155 in one county; Southern district, 52 in one county; in Illinois, Northern district, 113 in 81 counties; in Louisiana, 840 in 120 precincts; in Maryland, 1,222 in 150 precincts; in Massachusetts, 117 in 25 counties; in Mississippi, Northern district, 239 in 65 counties; in Missouri, Southern district, 1,028 in 90 voting places; in New Jersey, 248 in 86 precincts; in New York, 3,565 in 895 precincts; in North Carolina, 176 in 176 precincts; in Pennsylvania, 347 in 327 precincts; in South Carolina, 338 in 17 precincts; in Texas, 1 to each precinct, and in Virginia 20 in 35 precincts. In the remaining states very few deputies were appointed. There were a total of 2,788 voting places at which the attendance of 11,615 deputies was had. The marshal of Florida reports that in addition to his regular forces he appointed 745 general deputies. There were 75 in Georgia counties, 50 each in Jackson, Ga., and Jefferson, Madison, Columbia, and Alachua, and small numbers in the other counties, including 10 in Butcher county. The Louisiana marshal's report merely states that 840 deputies were appointed; that they were equally divided among 120 precincts; that 750 of them served for one day and the remainder from two to fourteen days each. The marshal of South Carolina reports that 70 deputies were distributed to 17 precincts in the city of Charleston and important precincts throughout the state.

The attorney general attempts to show, by the reports of the various marshals that the results justified the assembling of his improvised army. The Georgia marshal reported hislessness in the state, but he added: "Without the protection of the United States laws, and the officers appointed under them, the colored voters complained, and I believe justly, that they were unable to cast their ballots freely and fully for the candidates of their choice." This is altogether too ridiculous for refutation on the spot. Father Tait is proud of the constable forces, and doubtless holds himself ready to repeat the operation on an enlarged scale under the incoming president. The whole force of deputy marshals, aided by a large slice of the regular army, were not able, however, to bulldoze the people into casting a majority of votes against the democratic candidates. Their work had to be supplemented by the villainies of the returning boards.

THE CANVASS IN THE NINTH DISTRICT.

We printed yesterday a series of resolutions passed by the democracy of Clarke county, protesting against the injustices of the present system of nominating conventions in the ninth district, in which ten thousand democrats are outvoted by five thousand, "the latter having thirty-three votes in convention, whereas the former are only permitted to cast twenty-eight," and they then "solemnly protest against a system so unjust."

To our mind, and to the mind of every one who will give the matter a little reflection, this protest embodies a complaint that is no complaint at all. Is the democratic party of the ninth district one party, or is it composed of fifteen thousand voters, ten thousand of whom are opposed to the other five? Or is it true, as the protest seems to suggest, that the five thousand who vote the tenth are not good democrats? There is no ground for the protest and some ground for the complaint. We had thought, and we still have reason to think, that the democratic party of the ninth is a unit in every thing looking to the success and perpetuation of the organization.

We know of no interest that ten thousand voters of the party can have that is inimical to the interests of the other five thousand. We can conceive of no hope or aspiration which has the success and unity of the democratic party in view, and is calculated to perpetuate its principles, than the success of any large centres of population.

In Campbell county there are two thousand persons unrepresented for; in Carroll seven, in Chattooga four, in Cherokee none, in Coweta one, in Gwinnett four, in Hancock two, in Henry one, in Lumpkin three, in Marion one, in Meriwether one, in Stewart seven, in Talbot four, in Towns five, in Troubridge five, and in Warren two.

These cases, as we have stated, are unprovided for, and, if the average of the sixteen counties—which is three—be taken as a reasonable estimate, it will be seen that there are now in the state, needing the treatment and accommodation that only experience, aided by charity, can give, more than four hundred of these unfortunate. We appeal to the general assembly to reform this disgraceful and inhuman condition of affairs. It is a blot upon the state that puts our boasted benevolence to shame.

But suppose it were otherwise. Suppose there were dissensions and disagreements between the delegates representing ten thousand democrats on the one hand, and five thousand on the other. Would that fact give a sufficient excuse for setting up a independent thereby jeopardizing the success of the party, and threatening it with disunity? Even admitting (and the admission is merely for the sake of argument) that conventions do not represent the will of the people, does that justify Mr. Speer in accepting a nomination at the hands of seventeen men who had no credentials of authority either from the people or from the party? Mr. Speer's complaint is that conventions do not represent the popular will, and it is therefore a life-disgrace to see him leap from his exalted platform and become the candidate of seventeen gentlemen who, as he very well knows, have no authority to represent anybody but themselves. We shall, be gravely deceived if Mr. Speer does not discover that he made the most serious political mistake that it is possible for a young man to make.

The LaGrange Reporter has figured it down far enough to be able to say that the legislature costs the people of the state seven dollars a minute, seven dollars a minute!—Why this is a good deal more than the regularly ordained gas companies charge. Let us reform.

THE STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The legislature seem to have failed to do any justice to the unfortunate class for which the state is now sole and adequately providing. It is indeed time that some reform in our present system of caring for the insane should be inaugurated. The asylum is now, and has been for years, very considerably crowded with patients, and the only wonder is that the managers of that institution have been able to care for the unfortunate under their charge as satisfactorily as they seem to have done. Two years ago, a committee of the legislature visited the institution, and made a thorough investigation of affairs. Their report was exhaustive, and their recommendations based on well known facts in sanitary science. Dr. J. G. Thomas, of Savannah, if we are not mistaken, was chairman of the committee on the part of the house, as he was a member, and the suggestions embodied in the report were mainly the results of his careful and conscientious investigation of the needs of this most important of our human institutions.

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